

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING SALMONELLA TENNESSEE

What is Salmonella Tennessee?

Salmonella is a common bacterial infection. There are many different types of Salmonella. This type is currently in the news because it was detected in September of 2009 in food products originating from a plant in Las Vegas that manufactures Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein, a component of many processed foods. Some of these foods may require cooking or reheating before consumption and some may be in a ready-to-eat form. As of March 9, 2010 there have been no reports of illness related to this recall. It should be noted that this is a serious contaminant in food because this is the same agent that was implicated in the very serious Salmonella Tennessee peanut butter recall in May of 2007.

What are the symptoms of Salmonella infection?

People infected with Salmonella may have mild or severe diarrhea, fever, and sometimes vomiting. Infections can also occur in the bladder (called a urinary tract infection). Bladder infections appear to be more common with Salmonella Tennessee infections.

How soon after infection with Salmonella do symptoms appear?

Diarrhea and fever usually occur 12-36 hours after infection, with a range of 56-72 hours. Symptoms of urinary tract infections may occur days to weeks after consumption.

What foods are associated with the Salmonella Tennessee Recall?

The list of foods associated with this recall is extensive and growing. For a complete list please visit <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/HVPCP/>

What should I do if I recently ate some of the recalled food products?

If you are not ill with symptoms of Salmonella and have foods that match the brand and product numbers, throw them away.

If you are ill with symptoms of Salmonella and have consumed any foods listed in the recall, contact your health care provider. Do not throw away the food products. You may be asked to provide a stool sample for testing. Also contact your local health department. Your health department will determine whether your food products should be sent for testing.

What is the treatment for Salmonella?

Most people will recover without treatment; however, antibiotics may be prescribed by their physician.

How is Salmonella spread?

Salmonella is usually spread to people who eat foods contaminated with the bacteria. The bacterium is often found in feces. Foods may also become contaminated when someone ill with Salmonella prepares food for someone else. If you have symptoms do not prepare or touch anyone else's food. **Always wash your hands after going to the bathroom.**